AVATAR

The Last Airbender

Show #109

BOOK ONE: WATER
CHAPTER NINE: "The Waterbending Scroll"

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FADE IN:

EXT. SKY -- DAY

AANG, KATARA, SOKKA, and MOMO are traveling on APPA. There is nothing but land beneath them. Aang paces up and down Appa's saddle as he ponders something.

SOKKA
Would you sit down? If we hit a bump, you'll go flying off. What's bugging you, anyway?

AANG
It's what Avatar Roku said -- I'm supposed to master all four elements before that comet arrives.

SOKKA
Well, let's see, you pretty much mastered Airbending, and that only took you 112 years. I'm sure you can master three more elements by next summer.

Aang starts to pace more quickly.

AANG
I haven't even started Waterbending, and we're still weeks away from the North Pole! What am I going to do!?

Aang makes a panicked face. Katara grabs him and stops him from pacing.

KATARA
Calm down, it's going to be okay. If you want, I can try and teach you some of the stuff I know.

AANG
(instant cheer)
You'd do that?!

Katara looks down but sees nothing but land.

KATARA
We'll need to find a good source of water first.

SOKKA
(sardonic)
Maybe we can find a puddle for you to splash in.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. WATERFALL PARADISE -- LATER

It’s the most spectacular system of springs and waterfalls the kids have ever seen.

SOKKA
(beside himself)
Nice puddle.

REVEAL Appa, splashing about in the water. Momo, sitting on the bank, dives out of the way of a large SPLASH.

AANG
(WHOOPS WITH EXCITEMENT) Don’t start without me, boy!

Aang starts to dive into the water. Katara’s hand grabs his shoulder.

KATARA
Remember the reason we’re here.

AANG
Oh, right. Time to practice Waterbending!

SOKKA
Great. So what am I supposed to do?

Aang thinks for a beat.

AANG
(shrugs)
You could... clean the gunk out of Appa’s toes.

Aang hands Sokka a nearby tree branch floating in the water.

SOKKA
So... while you guys are playing in the water, I’m supposed to be hard at work picking mud out of a giant bison’s feet?

AANG
(nodding)
Mud and bugs.

Sokka thinks for a BEAT, then shrugs.

SOKKA
(totally game)
Okay.

INT. ZUKO'S SHIP -- MEANWHILE

Zuko is practicing his kung fu with a Fire Soldier. They square off. Just as Zuko is about to land a blow, the ship turns sharply, throwing Zuko to the floor.

ZUKO
(puzzled)
Someone's changing our course.

INT. BRIDGE -- MOMENTS LATER

Zuko storms into the room to see one of his men steering the captain's wheel.

ZUKO
What's the meaning of this mutiny?
No one told you to change course.

UNCLE (O.S.)
Actually, someone did.

PAN TO UNCLE IROH, who is lounging comfortably in the corner of the room, playing a board game with one of the soldiers.

UNCLE
I assure you it is a matter of
utmost importance, Prince Zuko.

ZUKO
(excited)
Is it something to do with the
Avatar?

UNCLE
Even more urgent -- It seems I...
I've lost my lotus tile .

ZUKO
Lotus tile?

UNCLE
For my Pai Sho game. Most people think the lotus tile insignificant, but it is essential for the unusual strategy that I employ.

ZUKO
You've changed our course for a stupid lotus tile?!

UNCLE
See, you like most people underestimate its value. Just give me ten minutes to check the merchants at this port-of-call. Hopefully, they'll have the lotus tile in stock, and I can get on with my life.

Zuko is so enraged that he can't speak. FLICKERS OF FIRE spring from his clenched fists, and SMOKE SHOOTS from his ears and nostrils.

UNCLE
I'm lucky to have such an understanding nephew.

EXT. WATERFALL PARADISE -- LATER

Sokka is now busy scraping gunk out of Appa's toes.

APPA
(BELLOWS IN BLISS)

SOKKA
Yeah, don't get too happy. You've gotta do me next.

APPA
(BELLOWS)

ON KATARA AND AANG --

They're in another part of the lagoon, readying themselves in Waterbending positions.

KATARA
This is a pretty basic move, but it still took me months to perfect. So don't be frustrated if you don't get it right away.

She begins pushing and pulling the water back and forth with slow, fluid arm movements.

KATARA
Just push and pull the water like this... the key is getting the wrist movement right.

Aang begins miming the same arm movements.

AANG
Like this?

Katara stops Waterbending.

KATARA
That’s almost right. If you keep practicing, I’m sure eventually--

To both Katara and Aang’s surprise, he begins moving the water. Aang is giddy.

AANG
Hey, I’m bending it already!

Momo, sitting on the shore, is splashed again. He shakes himself dry again and CHITTERS CURSES at Aang. Katara’s face shows chagrin, unseen by Aang.

KATARA
Wow, I can’t believe you got that so quickly. It took me two months to learn that move.

AANG
Well, you had to figure it out all on your own. I’m lucky enough to have a great teacher.

KATARA
Thanks.

AANG
So, what’s next?

KATARA
This is a more difficult move -- I call it streaming the water...

She demonstrates by sending a tiny stream of water out of the pool, through the air, and back into the pool.

KATARA
It’s harder than it looks, so don’t be disappointed if --

She turns to see Aang is already sending a small stream of water over his head.

KATARA
Nice work. Though the over-the-head flare was unnecessary.

AANG
Sorry. Well don’t stop now! Keep ‘em coming.

KATARA
(unsure)
I kind of know this one other move. But it’s pretty hard, I haven’t even totally figured it out yet. The idea is to create a big, powerful wave.

She attempts the move. Water rises up in a wave form but quickly dissipates into small ripples.

AANG
So... like this?

Aang tries the same thing and sends a sizeable WAVE rippling across the pool. SOKKA, who is still scrubbing Appa’s feet, looks up just in time to see the wave coming at him. His surprise registers...

SOKKA
(annoyed)
Aang!

SMACK! The wave takes him down.

AANG
Looks like I’ve got the hang of that move.
(to Katara, eager)
What else ya got?

Her frustration is evident, but still unseen by Aang.

KATARA
That’s enough practicing for today.

Sokka finally reemerges from the depths of the lagoon. He is not happy.

SOKKA
Yeah, I'll say. You just practiced our supplies down the river.

We reveal the supplies floating away down the river.

AANG
(unsure what to say)
Uh... Sorry? I'm sure we can find somewhere to replace all this stuff.

Sokka wrings water out of his clothes.

SOKKA
(shaking his head)
My life was hard enough when you were just an Airbender.

EXT. MERCHANTS' PIER -- LATER

The kids are shopping at a seedy pier -- a neutral ground where merchants from all corners of the world meet to trade and make money.

RED SHIRT GUY
Please put me down.

BAG MAN
Who is brave enough to look into this bag.

(This is the Casablanca of the 'Avatar' world.) Sokka is exchanging some copper coins for new cooking utensils.

SOKKA
We've got exactly three copper pieces left from the money that King Bumi gave us. Let's spend it wisely.

AANG
Uh... make that two copper pieces, Sokka. I couldn't say no to this whistle.

He guiltily shows them his newly purchased WHISTLE. Sokka grabs it from him and blows in it... Nothing happens.

SOKKA
It doesn't even work.

Momo chitters.

SOKKA
See? Even Momo thinks it’s a piece of junk.

KATARA
No offense, Aang, but I’ll hold the money from now on.

She takes the rest of their money from Aang. He SLOUCHES in shame.

As the kids continue walking, the merchants and merchandise grows increasingly sketchy. A PIRATE BARKER stands beside a large ship at the end of the pier. He’s a smooth-talking pitch man who’s also a bit sleazy.

PIRATE BARKER
Earth nation, Fire nation, Water nation -- So long as bargains are your inclination, you’re welcome here. Don’t be shy, come on by.
(noticing the kids)
You there! I can see from your clothing that you’re world-travelling types. Perhaps I can interest you in some exotic curios?

AANG
Sure! What are curios?

PIRATE BARKER
Uhh, I’m not entirely sure, but we got ‘em!

The kids exchange very interested looks and head up the ramp into the boat.

INT. PIRATE SHIP BOUTIQUE -- SECONDS LATER

The kids look around at an array of bizarre antiques -- a jewel-encrusted sarcophagus, an oversized battle axe, a taxidermied walrus head, a monkey statue with ruby eyes...

A rough-looking PIRATE CAPTAIN emerges from the shadows. A strange REPTILE-BIRD perches on his shoulder. Together, they’re creepy as hell.

PIRATE CAPTAIN
(re: Momo)
I've never seen such a fine specimen of lemur. That beast would fetch me a hefty sum, if you'd be interested in bartering.

REPTILE-BIRD
(SQUAWKS HIDEOUSLY)

MOMO
(HISSES)

Momo CLUTCHES Aang in fear.

AANG
Momo's not for sale.

Across the room, Katara sees a rolled parchment sticking out of a box of trinkets. She unrolls it far enough to see that it's a WATERBENDING SCROLL -- full of detailed illustrations of advanced Waterbending moves. Katara's eyes light up as she marvels at the unknown techniques.

KATARA
Look at this, Aang! It's a Waterbending scroll.

Aang darts across the room to see it.

KATARA
Check out these crazy moves!

AANG
(to head pirate)
Where did you get a Waterbending scroll?

The captain snatches the scroll from Katara's hand.

PIRATE CAPTAIN
Let's just say I got it up North at a most reasonable price... free.

He stows the scroll away as Katara watches it longingly.

SOKKA
(catching on)
Wait a minute. Sea-loving traders... with suspiciously acquired merchandise... and pet reptile-birds -- you guys are pirates!

PIRATE BARKER
We prefer to think of ourselves as ‘high-risk traders.’

KATARA
So how much for the, uh, ‘traded’ scroll?

PIRATE CAPTAIN
I’ve already got a buyer, a nobleman in the Earth Kingdom. Unless, of course, you kids have two hundred gold pieces on you right now...

Katara looks down at the two copper pieces in her hand, knowing she can’t afford it. Aang pulls Katara aside.

AANG
I know how to deal with these guys, Katara. Pirates love to haggle. Watch and learn.

He takes the coins and turns to the Pirate Captain and throws on his most business-savvy demeanor.

AANG
What say ye to the price of... One copper piece?

Aang proudly places a single copper coin onto the counter. The pirate captain erupts in BOISTEROUS LAUGHTER then stops suddenly.

PIRATE CAPTAIN
(now deadly serious)
The price is two hundred gold pieces. I don’t haggle on items this rare.

AANG
Okay... two copper pieces.

He proudly slides A SECOND COPPER COIN onto the counter.

PIRATE CAPTAIN
It’s not as amusing the second time, boy.

Katara sidles up to Aang.

KATARA
(sotto voce)
Aang, can we get out of here? I feel like we're getting weird looks.

AANG
Aye, we be casting off now.

Aang takes his two coins back.

EXT. MERCHANTS' PIER -- MOMENTS LATER

The kids are walking back toward land.

AANG
What was that all about, Katara?

SOKKA
(irked)
Yeah, I was just starting to browse through their boomerang collection.

KATARA
I'll just feel a lot better once we get away from here.

She peeks over her shoulder to see the PIRATE BARKER running down the gangway from the pirate ship.

PIRATE BARKER
Hey you, get back here!

AANG
(oblivious)
Well, well. Look who's come to their senses. Told you the haggling would pay off--

Before the kids know what's happening, they are besieged on all sides by swashbuckling pirates! With great flare, they unsheathe exotic, dangerous weapons. Aang's confidence quickly fades, and off the kids startled expressions, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. MERCHANTS' PIER -- CONTINUOUS

Aang and Sokka are still dumbfounded by the quickness and sheer number (six) of the pirates. (The Pirate Captain is not a part of this group.)

PIRATE #1
There they are.

PIRATE #2
Get 'em!

PIRATE #3
Nobody's going nowhere.

KATARA
I don't think these pirates are here to trade with us!

PIRATE #3
Get back here!

Katara uses Waterbending to KNOCK OVER a nearby barrel filled with water, taking out a couple of pirates and clearing a getaway path. She grabs Aang and Sokka and takes off running.

PIRATE BARKER
This way! Let's cut them off.

The kids round a corner with the pirates hot on their trail. Aang uses Airbending to BLOW OVER the cart in their way, spilling cabbages onto the ground and tripping up some of the swashbucklers. PAN to REVEAL... THE CABBAGE MERCHANT from Omashu.

CABBAGE MERCHANT
My cabbages! This place is worse than Omashu!

Aang leads Katara and Sokka off the pier and down the street. The pirates don't miss a beat, so Aang tries to shake them by running down an alley.

PIRATE BARKER
I hope that lemur of your has nine lives.

EXT. MARKETPLACE ALLEY -- CONTINUOUS

To Aang's surprise, it's a dead end. The pirates round the corner with weapons in hand. It appears the kids are caught...

PIRATE BARKER
Now... Who gets to taste the steel of my blade first?

AANG
No thanks!
(to Katara and Sokka)
Grab on tight.

Aang whips out his GLIDER. Sokka and Katara grab onto him as he picks up speed toward the pirates.

KATARA
Aang! I thought we were running away from the pirates!

AANG
Just hang on!

The glider TAKES FLIGHT just before reaching the pirates, who SWAT at the kids as they soar overhead to safety.

EXT. WATERFALL PARADISE -- LATER

Back at the lagoon and away from the pirates, the kids land and catch their breath.

AANG
I used to kind of look up to pirates, but those guys are terrible!

KATARA
I know. That's why I took... this.

To Aang and Sokka's amazement, Katara reveals that she has the Waterbending Scroll.

AANG
No way.

KATARA
Isn't it great?!

SOKKA
No wonder they were trying to hack us up -- you stole their Waterbending scroll!

KATARA
I prefer to think of it as “high-risk trading.”

AANG
(CHUCKLING) Good one, Katara.

Sokka is not amused. He gives her a disapproving look.

KATARA
Sokka, where do you think they got it? They stole it from a Waterbender!

SOKKA
It doesn’t matter. You put all of our lives in danger just so you could learn some stupid, fancy splashes.

KATARA
These are <u>real</u> Waterbending forms. You know how crucial it is for Aang to learn Waterbending.

With the argument at a stalemate, Sokka throws in the towel.

SOKKA
(fed up)
Pfft... whatever.

AANG
Well... what’s done is done. We have it. We might as well learn from it.

EXT. MERCHANTS’ PIER -- A LITTLE LATER

Zuko and his crew have docked at the same pier the kids were visiting.

UNCLE
I’ve checked all the shops on this pier. Not a lotus tile in the entire marketplace.

ZUKO
(frustrated)
It’s good to know this trip was a complete waste of time for everyone!

UNCLE
Quite the contrary. I always say the only thing better than finding something you were looking for... is finding something you weren’t looking for at a great bargain.

As Iroh finishes this statement, we WIDEN to reveal three soldiers, overburdened with silly ANTIQUES that Uncle has purchased. Zuko examines a large tuba-like instrument.

ZUKO
You bought a tsungi horn?

UNCLE
(delighted)
For music night on the ship. Now, if we only had some woodwinds...
(noticing something)
Ooh, this place looks promising.

REVEAL that he is pointing at the pirate ship.

INT. PIRATE SHIP BOUTIQUE -- SECONDS LATER

Zuko and Uncle enter the shop. Uncle immediately fawns over the stone monkey.

UNCLE
Ohhh, that is handsome! Wouldn’t it look magnificent in the galley?!

Zuko makes a sour face. Across the room, the pirate barker is reporting to the captain.

PIRATE BARKER
We lost the Water Tribe girl... And the little bald monk she was travelling with.

Zuko whirls around.

ZUKO
This monk... did he have an arrow on his head?

EXT. WATERFALL PARADISE -- LATER

Katara and Aang are studying the scroll with mouths agape.

KATARA
I just want to try this one move first, and then it’s all yours. Here, hold it open for me...

She hands him the scroll. Aang holds it up like a cue card.

KATARA
The single water whip. Looks doable.

She follows the diagram carefully as she attempts the move. It goes horribly wrong and SMACKS her right in the forehead.

SOKKA
(CHUCKLES)

KATARA
What’s so funny?

SOKKA
I’m sorry, but you deserved that.
(to Aang)
You’ve been duped. She’s only interested in teaching herself.

KATARA
(frustrated)
Aang will get his turn once I figure out the water whip.

She makes another attempt, this time smacking Momo right in the butt. He turns and SQUAWKS a complaint. Katara is just mad that she botched the move.

KATARA
Why can’t I get this stupid move?!

AANG
(encouraging)
You’ll get it.

Aang puts the scroll down and takes a stance.

AANG
You’ve just got to shift your weight through the stances.

Aang demonstrates the move as he speaks, performing the water whip to perfection.

AANG
There! See, the key to bending is--

Katara explodes, an inch from his face.

KATARA
Will you please shut your air hole! Believe it or not, your infinite wisdom gets a little old sometimes! Why don't we just throw the scroll away since you're so naturally gifted?!

Aang's lip quivers. He says nothing. Katara looks to Sokka, who returns a disapproving glare.

KATARA
(playing dumb)
What?

No one says anything. Katara looks at Aang's hurt expression and realizes what she did.

KATARA
(sincere)
Oh my gosh, Aang. I am so sorry. I don't know what came over me.

She looks at the scroll sadly.

KATARA
But you know what, it won't happen again. Here, this is yours. I don't want to have anything to do with it anymore.

She gives Aang the scroll.

AANG
It's okay, Katara.

Aang puts it back in a satchel.

SOKKA
What about Momo? He's the real victim here.

Katara looks at Momo who is rubbing his tush.

KATARA
(deeply sorry)
I'm sorry, Momo.

SOKKA
And what about me? There was that time you--

KATARA
No more apologies!

EXT. SEAPORT -- THAT MOMENT

Zuko's ship is still at the dock. A compartment in the rear of the ship opens. Then a small, steam-powered SKIFF comes out, piloted by Zuko.

EXT. RIVER -- LATER

Zuko and the pirate captain are scouring the river in Zuko's skiff. The rest of the pirates follow closely in the pirate ship.

PIRATE CAPTAIN
Shouldn't we stop to search the woods?

ZUKO
We don't need to stop. They stole a waterbending scroll, right?

The pirate captain nods.

ZUKO
Then they'll be on the water.

The pirate realizes he's correct.

EXT. CAMPSITE -- NIGHT

Everyone is sound asleep as we pan across the campsite. But suddenly, Katara's eyes open. She looks around. Then she tip-toes over to the satchel. She quietly takes the scroll out and starts to walk away.

Katara turns to see Momo staring at her. He starts to CHITTER.

KATARA
Sshh! Momo! Go back to sleep.

Momo CHITTERS at a lower volume. Katara turns and walks into the FOREST.

EXT. RIVER BANK -- ONE HOUR LATER

Katara is attempting the single water whip again. It fails again and again, adding to her frustration each time.

KATARA
(FRUSTRATED GRUNT)...Ah, shoot!...
Come on water, work with me
here...okay what if just--?...
Ouch! Stupid scroll!

Her yelling attracts the attention of Zuko and the pirate captain, who are floating by in the skiff. The captain signals to his men in the pirate boat, travelling alongside them. Katara is unaware of their presence.

KATARA
(remembering what Aang
said)
Okay, Katara shift your weight
through the stances... (FRUSTRATED
GRUNT)

She hears a RUSTLE in the bushes and stops. She pulls aside the shrubs to see Zuko’s skiff landing. Katara GASPS and turns to flee. She runs right into a large pirate, who grabs her and picks her up.

KATARA
No! Let go of me!

She WATERWHIPS the pirate right in the face, managing to stun him for a second. Katara tries to run another direction, and flees right into the arms of Zuko.

ZUKO
I'll save you from the pirates.

Off, Katara’s terrified expression, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. RIVER BANK -- MINUTES LATER

The pirates and Zuko have Katara tied to a plank. Zuko turns to her with an angry stare. Katara squirms to no avail.

ZUKO
Tell me where he is and I won't hurt you or your brother!

KATARA
Go jump in the river!

Iroh whispers something in Zuko's ear. Zuko switches tacks.

ZUKO
Try to understand. I need to capture him to restore something I've lost -- my honor.

He walks behind her so she cannot see him.

ZUKO
Perhaps in exchange I can restore something you've lost.

He places something around her neck, and she looks down at it.

KATARA
My mother's necklace! How did you get this?

ZUKO
I didn't steal it, if that's what you were wondering.

He takes it off her neck and dangles it in front of her.

ZUKO
Tell me where he is.

KATARA
No!

The Pirate Captain steps forward.

PIRATE CAPTAIN
Enough of this necklace garbage. You promised the scroll.

Zuko reveals the scroll. He holds it up and threatens it with a small flame from his palm.

ZUKO
I wonder how much money this is worth?

The pirates instantly get the message and back off.

ZUKO
A lot apparently. Now you help me find what I want, you'll get this back, and everyone goes home happy. Search the woods for the boy and meet back here.

PIRATE CAPTAIN
Fine.

EXT. CAMPSITE -- DAYBREAK

Aang and Sokka are waking up and stretching. Sokka looks to Katara's abandoned sleeping bag.

SOKKA
Where did she go?

Sokka looks into his satchel and reacts with surprise.

SOKKA
I don't believe it.

AANG
(yawning)
What's wrong?

SOKKA
She took the scroll. She's obsessed with that thing! It's just a matter of time before she get's us all in deep--

Just then, the campsite is stormed by sword-wielding pirates! Sokka grabs his club and holds them off as Aang tries to generate an air assault.

One of the pirates fires a NET at Aang. He releases his air attack, but it passes right through the net.

Aang becomes fully ensnared in the net. The pirates drag Aang away, leaving Sokka behind.

PIRATE #1
I got him, come on!

SOKKA
Oh, what? I'm not good enough to kidnap?

They fire a net at Sokka, ensnaring him too. They pick him up and drag him away, as well.

EXT. RIVER BANK -- LATER

Zuko watches the pirates return with Aang and Sokka. He smiles as he readies the scroll for the hand-off. Katara, who's still tied to the plank, sees Aang and smiles.

ZUKO
Nice work.

KATARA
Aang, this is all my fault--

AANG
No, Katara, it isn't--

UNCLE
Yeah, it kind of is.

Zuko addresses the pirates.

ZUKO
Give me the boy.

PIRATE CAPTAIN
You give us the scroll.

SOKKA
You're really going to hand over the Avatar for a stupid piece of parchment?

The pirate captain turns to his comrades. They murmur amongst themselves.

ZUKO
Don't listen to him. He's trying to turn us against each other!

PIRATE CAPTAIN
(to Sokka)
Your friend is the Avatar?

SOKKA
Sure is. And I'll bet he'll fetch a lot more on the black market than that fancy scroll.

Zuko tries to punch Sokka, but the pirates get between them.

ZUKO
Shut your mouth, you Water Tribe peasant!

ON AANG, who is particularly worried.

AANG
Yeah, Sokka, you really should shut your mouth.

SOKKA
I'm just saying -- it's bad business sense. Just imagine how much the Fire Lord would pay for the Avatar -- you guys would be set for life.

The pirates converse for a beat. Then they turn and walk toward the pirate ship, partially grounded on a nearby shore.

PIRATE CAPTAIN
Keep the scroll. We can buy a hundred with the reward we'll get for the kid.

ZUKO
You'll regret breaking a deal with me.

Zuko looks to his men and nods. In a FLASH OF SWORDS AND FIREBALLS, Zuko's men attack the pirates.

All hell breaks lose -- Fire Soldiers CLANG swords with pirate daggers, pirates dodge the blades and counter with SMOKE BOMBS, which immediately obscure the attackers' vision.

Momo finds Katara, who is lying on the ground, trying to avoid the fray. With amazing dexterity, he quickly GNAWS through her ropes, freeing her.

KATARA
Thanks, Momo. I owe you a bushel of apples.

MOMO
(CHITTERS HAPPILY)

During the commotion, Momo grabs the scroll from Zuko's hand. The pirates' pet lizard-bird attacks Momo, causing him to drop the scroll. Momo and the bird tumble through the air and fly off, chasing each other. A Firebender unintentionally KICKS the scroll across the ground and out of frame.

Sokka crawls on the ground with his hands still tied. He wriggles his way to the pirate ship.

SOKKA
Aang! Are you there?!

Aang's voice comes through the smoke.

AANG (O.S.)
I'm over here! Follow my voice!

Sokka finds a DAGGER on the ground and cuts his hands free.

SOKKA (O.S.)
Where?! I can't find you!

AANG
I'm right here!

Aang blows the smoke away, revealing that he is surrounded by pirates and soldiers.

AANG
Uh...nevermind, I'll find you!

He quickly Airbends the smoke back over them.

Two pirates throw boomerangs attached to ropes, which wrap around Zuko's legs. He CRASHES to the ground. Two more pirates trip up another fire soldier.

Another buccaneer turns a quick series of cartwheels and flips, and ends the move by kicking a FIREBENDER into the water.

AANG
Run!

Katara avoids the fighting pirates and makes her way to Sokka, who is untying Aang near the pirate ship.

AANG
Katara, you're okay!

KATARA
Help me get this boat back in the water so we can get out of here!

They try shoving the boat back in the river, but it's too heavy.

SOKKA
We'd need a team of rhinos to budge this ship.

AANG
A team of rhinos, or... two Waterbenders.

Katara gets the message. Together, Aang and Katara begin synchronized pushing and pulling movements to create an eddy. It works! Slowly, the boat slides back into the water.

KATARA
Everybody in.

The kids and Momo hop on board as the pirate ship begins to catch the river current. On the shore, the pirate captain is dueling with Zuko. They circle each other, looking for an opportunity to strike. Suddenly, Uncle Iroh steps between them.

UNCLE
Are you so busy fighting, you cannot see your own ship has set sail?

ZUKO
We have no time for your proverbs, Uncle.

UNCLE
It's no proverb.

Uncle POINTS to the river. The captain looks to see the Avatar is getting away on his boat!

PIRATE CAPTAIN
Bleedin' hog monkeys!

Zuko, who is battered from the fight, points and LAUGHS at the captain. A beat later, he sees that his skiff is being commandeered by some of the pirates.

ZUKO
Hey! That's my boat!

UNCLE
(to himself)
Maybe it should be a proverb.

ZUKO
Come on, Uncle!

Zuko and Uncle run along the river bank, chasing after the ships.

EXT. RIVER -- CONTINUOUS

The kids are fleeing downstream on the pirate ship. The pirates are right behind them on Zuko's skiff.

AANG
Sokka, can't you make it go any faster?!

ON SOKKA -- steering the boat.

SOKKA
I don't know how. This thing wasn't made by the Water Tribe.

Aang turns to see Katara standing by the rear of the ship, where two pirates are climbing aboard using grappling hooks. Aang immediately conjures another LARGE WAVE, knocking one of the intruders off the boat.

Katara tries the single water whip -- she actually knocks one of the pirates overboard.

AANG
Hey, you did the water whip.

KATARA
I couldn't have done it without your help.

SOKKA
Will you two quit congratulating each other and help me out!

Aang and Katara turn to see Sokka is struggling to fight off two more pirates that have boarded the front of the ship.

Momo and the bird lizard fly in circles around the boat, chasing each other. Momo speeds toward the sails, then at the last moment sharply turns upward. The bird-lizard tears through the sail and crashes into the mast, knocking himself unconscious.

Sokka is taken down by the pirates. No one is at the ship's wheel. Katara's eyes widen as she hears the dreaded sound of WATER CASCADING.

KATARA
Aang! Look!

Aang, who has rushed to Sokka's aid, looks over the bow of the ship to see the ship is approaching a large, scary waterfall!

AANG
Oh no...

Aang thinks, desperately searching for an out. Suddenly, one of the pirates draws a DAGGER on him. Aang, in turn, draws the WHISTLE he bought at the pier. He blows on it. Once again, no sound. Just as the pirate is about to take a swing at Aang, Sokka knocks the knife out of his hand with his club, then kicks him in the chest, sending him overboard.

SOKKA
Have you lost your mind?! This is no time for flute practice!

Katara and Aang rush to the front of the boat.

KATARA
We can stop the boat! Aang, together, push and pull the water.

They are almost at the edge of the waterfall! They use Waterbending to pull water against the current to slow the boat down. The boat reacts by sliding to the side -- just as it reaches the precipice, it stops!

KATARA
It's working, it's slowing down! We're doing it!

SOKKA
But we have another problem!

We see that Zuko's skiff is rapidly approaching, on a collision course with them. The skiff crashes into the side of the pirate ship, the force knocking Katara and Aang to the deck. They lose their hold on the water and both boats go over the falls.

Aang quickly grabs Katara and Sokka's hands.

AANG
Jump!

They jump off the deck as the boat goes over the edge. As they SCREAM in mid air, Appa rises up into frame and catches them in his saddle.

AANG
(re: whistle)
I knew a bison whistle would come in handy.

Below them, the pirate ship SPLASHES top-down in the pool at the bottom of the falls. A beat later, Zuko's skiff goes over, taking two more pirates with it. The pirates buoy back up to the surface, spitting out water.

AANG
Thanks, Appa.

SOKKA
Yeah, we owe you one.

APPA BELLOWS in agreement.

EXT. RIVER BANK -- CONTINUOUS

Zuko and Iroh are just arriving at the scene of the wreck. Zuko peers over the ledge to see his badly damaged skiff capsized in the water.

ZUKO
(upset)
My boat!

UNCLE
(embarrassed)
Prince Zuko, you're really going to get a kick out of this...

He pulls a lotus tile from his sleeve pocket.

UNCLE
(chuckling)
The lotus tile was in my sleeve the whole time.

Off of Zuko’s reaction we...

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY -- APPA -- MINUTES LATER

The kids are on their way to another adventure.

KATARA
Aang, I still owe you an apology. You were just so good at Waterbending without really trying. I got so competitive that I put us all in danger. I’m sorry.

AANG
That’s okay, Katara.

KATARA
Besides, who needs that stupid scroll anyway?

SOKKA
(revealing scroll)
Is that really how you feel?

KATARA
The scroll!

He holds it out to her, then quickly snatches it away just as she is about to grab it.

SOKKA
First: what did you learn?

KATARA
Stealing is wrong...

Sokka gives Katara the scroll. As she takes it, she continues as if finishing her last line.

KATARA
Unless it’s from pirates.

AANG
(CHUCKLING) Good one, Katara.

They laugh as Sokka shakes his head and rolls his eyes.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW